

Taking Pride

**Subject:** Taking Pride

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**To:** lisa@mediadistrict.org

 Mitch O'Farrell, Councilmember, 13th District

Friend --

June is a time of celebration throughout our great City. We welcome the summer season as we honor our graduates, take time to travel and recreate, and enjoy the longer daylight hours. It is also when we highlight Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender pride and heritage.

During previous LGBT heritage month celebrations, I shared the significance of commemorating Pride Month in the City of Los Angeles by remembering our rich LGBT history and two historic events that took place in the communities I represent. As you know, the gay rights movement was born at the Black Cat Tavern in Silver Lake (two years before New York's Stonewall Inn), and the first Gay Pride Parade took place in Hollywood along the Walk of Fame.

Now, decades later, we continue to witness how the civil rights movement has changed the way policymakers think about moving our society forward for everyone. Equal rights mean we denounce hate, embrace inclusiveness, and we extend a hand to the most marginalized in our society. If someone among us does not have full civil rights, then in a sense, none of us do.

As a member of the Los Angeles City Council, I am proud to be a voice for our LGBT community and I continue to act on your behalf to protect your rights. This week I co-introduced a motion with my colleagues Mike Bonin and Nury Martinez asking for the City Attorney to report back on recommendations to update the Los Angeles Municipal Code (63.44) to allow for gender neutral restroom use in our parks.

This month, I joined Mayor Eric Garcetti, Councilmember Mike Bonin, City Controller Ron Galperin, as well as the entire Los Angeles City Council to honor leaders and legends in the LGBT community. We shined the spotlight on courage, diversity, pride and progress in our transgender community.

In addition to the City Council presentation, I also teamed up with ONE Archives to host a special exhibition in the bridge gallery at City Hall. This first-ever exhibit contains a collection of front page headlines from major newspapers across the country following each state court ruling in favor of the freedom to marry for LGBT individuals. The exhibit is free and open to the public through the end of June.

Wherever you plan to celebrate our Pride, keep in mind where we've been and where we still need to go.

Warm regards,

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Mitch O'Farrell

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## COMING UP

6/11 [SUMMER OPENING OF HOLLYWOOD POOL](#)

